

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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, GOCON, UNESCO

TAGS:POR, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT:U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
FOR INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAM (IHP)

REF: PARIS 07990

1. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DDG FOBES AND DUMITRESCU ARE
OVER-REACTING TO, IF NOT MISINTERPRETING, CRAGWALL'S LETTER
OF MARCH 10, 1975. LETTER MOST CERTAINLY WAS NOT INTENDED
TO SIGNAL MINIMAL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN IHP.
RATHER, PURPOSE WAS TO ALERT SECRETARIAT IN ADVANCE, AT ITS
REQUEST, TO MATTERS OF U.S. CONCERN IN ORDER TO FACILITATE
DISCUSSIONS AT IHP COUNCIL SESSION.

2. IN LINE WITH POLICY FOLLOWED IN RECENT YEARS, WE DO
NOT AUTOMATICALLY COMMIT OURSELVES TO NEW PROGRAMS. IN
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CASE OF MAB, FOR INSTANCE, U.S. WEIGHED THE EXTENT OF

ITS POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE FINALLY DECIDING TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE. THE U.S. CANNOT PLEDGE SUPPORT TO A PROGRAM UNTIL THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT IT IS DEVELOPING ALONG LINES THAT ARE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THIS IS THE CASE FOR IHP.

3. WE SURMISE THAT IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST ONE BIENNIAL TO MOLD THE DIRECTION OF THE PROGRAM. ALREADY AT THE 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (1972) THE U.S. WAS QUITE CLEAR IN STATING THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN IHP MUST BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BENEFITS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PROPOSALS. ONE MUST ALSO ADD TO THIS THE FACT THAT THE U.S. WAS DISENCHANTED AT TIMES BY THE POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH AROSE IN THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL DECADE (IHD). A CLASSIC EXAMPLE WAS THE TOTAL DISREGARD FOR RULES WHEN SOUTH AFRICA WAS EXPelled FROM THE "ENDEC" CONFERENCE LAST SEPTEMBER. THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME EVIDENCE THAT MEMBER STATES WANT TO FOCUS ON SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS AND LEAVE POLITICS TO THE FORUMS WHERE THEY BELONG.

4. THE U.S. DID NOT SERVE CONTINUOUSLY ON THE BUREAU FOR IHD AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO DO SO IN IHP. THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HYDROLOGY BELIEVES THAT SERVICE ON THE BUREAU IMPLIES VIGOROUS PARTICIPATION, A COMMITMENT WE CANNOT MAKE UNTIL THE ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM ARE CLEARER. THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE U.S. HYDROLOGICAL COMMUNITY, BEING LARGE AND DIFFUSE, NEEDS MORE TIME TO CRYSTALLIZE THE U.S. INTERESTS.

5. THE U.S. USUALLY RESISTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-ORDINATE COMMITTEES BEFORE THEIR NEED HAS BEEN PROVEN. PROLIFERATION OF SUBORDINATE BODIES DEBILITATES MANY UN PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE OF UNESCO. WE BELIEVE IHP SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN CREATING SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS. NONE MAY BE NECESSARY UNTIL THE PROGRAM IS MORE DEVELOPED AND ANY SUBORDINATE BODIES CREATED AT FIRST SESSION OF IHP SHOULD AT LEAST BE OF AN AD HOC NATURE. IHD DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE A MODEL FOR IHP.

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6. CRAGWALL WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO MEET WITH FOBES. HE SUGGESTS A MEETING BE ARRANGED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 8, AFTER HAVING HAD SESSION WITH MAXIM. KISSINGER

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